

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1106  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** March 11, 2013

**Authors:** Allen and others

**Subject:** Child protection screening; work group

**Analyst:** Lynn Aves

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm](http://www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm).

### Overview

This bill establishes a child protection screening work group.

#### Section

**1 Mandatory guidance for screening reports.** Amends §626.556, by adding subd. 7a. Requires all child protection staff to follow the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines provided by the Department of Human Services. Instructs staff to immediately implement updated procedures and protocols when instructed by the commissioner.

**2 Child protection screening work group.**

**Subd. 1. Purpose and goal.** Paragraph (a) describes the basis for this legislation is to ensure children's consistent, equal protection from harm regardless of where they live in the state.

Paragraph (b) refers to the 2012 OLA report that found practices for screening allegations of child maltreatment vary greatly throughout the state. Establishes a work group to ensure consistent and thorough protection of children. Requires the work group to make findings, recommendations, and to draft legislation.

**Subd. 2. Composition of the work group.** Requires the work group to have a minimum of 20 and maximum of 25 members. Lists the groups, professionals, and organizations who are to be represented on the work group.

**Subd. 3. Responsibilities of the work group.** Paragraph (a) requires the work group to perform a feasibility study for development and implementation of a

**Section**

statewide centralized unit for screening reports of maltreatment.

Paragraph (b) provides that if the work group determines a centralized unit is not feasible and an alternative structure is more effective, the work group shall make recommendations for an alternative structure.

Paragraph (c) requires the work group to review each of the recommendations contained in the OLA report and make recommendations on policies and procedures to ensure the uniform application of child protection screening; establish consistent reporting requirements on the numbers of screened-out cases, data collection, and record retention; clarify use of data related to family history of referrals; clarify vague statutory terms; update the state screening guidelines; develop training for child protection staff; and develop training for mandated reporters.

**Subd. 4. Report.** Requires the work group to issue a report to the chairs of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child protection by November 13, 2013.